

**To:** Senn, John[Senn.John@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Sat 8/15/2015 6:14:56 PM  
**Subject:** RE: REGIONAL RESPONSE on WSJ Q15 - JIC/EOC ACTION: WALL STREET JOURNAL: DEADLINE ASAP

Lisa McClain-Vanderpool

Public Affairs Specialist/Media Officer

Office of Communications and Public Involvement

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

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Office 303.312.6077

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**From:** Senn, John **On Behalf Of** EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 11:47 AM  
**To:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Press  
**Cc:** StClair, Christie; Smith, Paula; Mylott, Richard  
**Subject:** Re: REGIONAL RESPONSE on WSJ Q15 - JIC/EOC ACTION: WALL STREET JOURNAL: DEADLINE ASAP

Thanks--Lisa...can you check w/Laura to make sure the below is still accurate? I just tweaked for clarity--I still need to clear final language through OGC here, though, before anything goes back to the reporter, which I can do on a very quick turnaround FYI. Do we know whether the Red/Bonita project will still go forward as scheduled, btw, since we have stopped work at mine sites?

The Gold King Mine was in the early stages of being evaluated and, until that process is completed, EPA cannot determine whether the installation of a bulkhead is appropriate for this mine. The assessment evaluation was budgeted for \$470,000.

The Red and Bonita Mine near the Gold King Mine was slated to be plugged this summer and that project has a budget of \$1.5 million. The Red and Bonita has been fully assessed and does not have mine workings that are hydraulically connected to Sunnyside, which is associated with the American Tunnel, or Gold King Mine. Sunnyside is not associated with the evaluation that was being conducted at the Gold King Mine.

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**From:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 12:56 PM  
**To:** EOC Public Information; Press  
**Cc:** StClair, Christie; Smith, Paula; Mylott, Richard  
**Subject:** REGIONAL RESPONSE on WSJ Q15 - JIC/EOC ACTION: WALL STREET JOURNAL: DEADLINE ASAP

See below – let us know if this is sufficient.

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**From:** Williams, Laura  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 10:48 AM  
**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Portillos, Christine  
**Cc:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Stavnes, Sandra; Mylott, Richard  
**Subject:** Re: JIC/EOC ACTION: WALL STREET JOURNAL: DEADLINE ASAP

So, the reporter has blended a number of projects into their question. I'll give you the information and let you determine how to respond.

The Gold King Mine was in the early stages of being evaluated and, until the evaluation/assessment is completed, EPA does not know if installation of a bulkhead (plugging) is appropriate for this mine. The assessment evaluation was budgeted for \$470,000. I do not know how much of that budget has been spent but feel that it would be a small percentage of the budget.

To the best of my knowledge, Sunnyside is associated with the American Tunnel, and is definitely not part of the evaluation that was being conducted at the Gold King Mine (unless the assessment finds some type of connection between the Gold King and the American Tunnel).

The Red and Bonita Mine, near the Gold King Mine, is slated to be plugged this summer and has an associated budget of \$1.5 million. The Red and Bonita has been fully assessed and does not have mine workings that are hydraulically connected to the American Tunnel or Gold King Mine.

Please call me if you have questions or want to discuss further. Thank you, lw

720-446-6442

**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn

**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 10:04 AM

**To:** Williams, Laura; Portillos, Christine

**Subject:** FW: JIC/EOC ACTION: WALL STREET JOURNAL: DEADLINE ASAP

Don't think this adds anything but am sending all related threads just in case I'm missing something...

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

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**From:** StClair, Christie

**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 8:45 PM

**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Press; EOC Public Information

**Cc:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Stavnes, Sandra; Mylott, Richard

**Subject:** RE: JIC/EOC ACTION: WALL STREET JOURNAL: DEADLINE ASAP

I can't seem to turn off the highlighting. So I went with green for our update. Q#15 is a Region 8 question – Jim Hanley or Carol Russell can address. Is Melissa Lee coordinating the final response?

14. How much have you spent approximately on this particular cleanup? Since we're still in the middle of this response, we aren't able to answer this question.

15. We've learned that this particular EPA cleanup project to plug the mines in the Animas watershed, including Gold King & Sunnyside, cost \$1.5 million and began in July. Can you confirm that?

**Christie St. Clair**

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

**From:** Laura Jenkins [<mailto:Jenkins.Laura@epamail.epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 7:02 PM

**To:** Press; EOC Public Information

**Cc:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Stavnes, Sandra; Mylott, Richard

**Subject:** FW: JIC/EOC ACTION: WALL STREET JOURNAL: DEADLINE ASAP

RE: WSJ request, Sandy indicates a response is forthcoming for one of the three questions and indicates remaining questions should be answered by people on the ground.

In addition , wanted to pass along a heads-up that ANOTHER – MORE DETAILED REQUEST – is coming in shortly from the WSJ. I just received a call from Alexandra Berzon, of WSJ, who has more detailed questions RE: Superfund. Will forward as soon as it comes.

Laura Jenkins

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**From:** Stavnes, Sandra

**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 4:27 PM

**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn; EOC Public Information; Press

**Cc:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; McGrath, Shaun; Card, Joan; Hestmark, Martin; Land, Kelcey; Urdiales, Aaron; Sisk, Richard; Piggott, Amelia; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Bielenberg, Ben

**Subject:** RE: JIC/EOC ACTION: WALL STREET JOURNAL: DEADLINE ASAP

Laura

Legal enforcement is working on Q 16 and we may have something we can pass on later today or tomorrow.

Cost information is best answered by the folks on the ground at the UC/JIC. Ben Bielenberg is also available to help if needed. I just found out that there are 2 site codes for work going on at the GKM and costs associated with each. One is for the pre event work under the time critical removal and the other is for activities after the blowout and related to it.

Sandy

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Sandra A. Stavnes

Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator

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email: [stavnes.sandra@epa.gov](mailto:stavnes.sandra@epa.gov)

phone: 303-312-6117

**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn

**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 2:52 PM

**To:** EOC Public Information; Press

**Cc:** Stavnes, Sandra; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard

**Subject:** JIC/EOC ACTION: WALL STREET JOURNAL: DEADLINE ASAP

I reached out to Sandy Stavnes and she's got someone working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> question but said the first two (highlighted here in yellow) need to be answered by those on-the-ground in Durango.

14. How much have you spent approximately on this particular cleanup?

15. We've learned that this particular EPA cleanup project to plug the mines in the Animas watershed, including Gold King & Sunnyside, cost \$1.5 million and began in July. Can you confirm that?

We hope to have an answer the following question by 4:00 today:

8. The owner of Gold King mine says EPA has not held Sunnyside and Kennross Corp responsible enough for the chronic leakage and this spill. What's your response to that?

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

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**From:** Thomas, Latosha **On Behalf Of** EOC Public Information

**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 11:28 AM

**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn

**Subject:** Fw: several questions // Gold King Mine

**Importance:** High

Hi Laura,

Could you all please address questions 6, 7, 8 below? Thanks!

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**From:** Friedland, Melissa on behalf of EOC Technical Specialist

**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 1:09 PM

**To:** EOC Public Information

**Subject:** Fw: several questions // Gold King Mine

see below

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**From:** Friedland, Melissa on behalf of EOC Technical Specialist



**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 1:01 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Nancy  
**Subject:** Re: several questions // Gold King Mine

Nancy,

4. We're been using: greater than \$4 billion for Superfund expenditures at hard rock mining sites.

We have to ask region 8 about questions 6 , 7 and 8 which we are doing.

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**From:** Cohen, Nancy  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 12:54 PM  
**To:** EOC Technical Specialist  
**Cc:** EOC Public Information  
**Subject:** FW: several questions // Gold King Mine

Melissa: can you answer these? I know for #2 yesterday we said EPA is compiling a list of mining sites under EPA jurisdiction where the Administrator's statement on field investigations would apply. We also answered #3 . . .

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen

U.S. EPA OSWER

202.566.0171

**From:** Lee, Monica  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 12:48 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Nancy

**Subject:** FW: several questions // Gold King Mine  
**Importance:** High

Hey Nancy – can you help for a quick turn around on this one for the WSJ? The first question needs to be directed to the White House, and on costs, I think we have to say we don't have estimates to share at this time.

- ~~1. Will President Obama declare emergencies in the affected states to open up federal disaster funding?~~ She'll have to ask the WH
2. Regarding the hiatus into similar "field investigation work," approximately how many mines does this affect?
3. Does this hiatus just apply to hardrock mines, or other kinds too?
4. How much has EPA spent on cleaning up abandoned mines since, well, as far back as your data goes?
- ~~5. Relatedly, do you have any estimates on costs to plug the rest?~~ We don't have an estimate to share at this time.
6. How much have you spent approximately on this particular cleanup?
7. We've learned that this particular EPA cleanup project to plug the mines in the Animas watershed, including Gold King & Sunnyside, cost \$1.5 million and began in July. Can you confirm that?
8. The owner of Gold King mine says EPA has not held Sunnyside and Kennross Corp responsible enough for the chronic leakage and this spill. What's your response to that?

Let me know if you're able to help with the rest – thank you!

**From:** Harder, Amy [<mailto:Amy.Harder@wsj.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2015 12:21 PM  
**To:** Reynolds, Thomas; Purchia, Liz; Harrison, Melissa  
**Subject:** RE: several questions // Gold King Mine

Hi Tom, Liz and Melissa, I'm circling back on this. Our broader story is set to be published later this afternoon. I realize you guys have been swamped, but could you at least shed some light on

the funding questions? And/or give us the last decade of data that this EPA website has for 1993-2005?

A response at your earliest convenience would be much appreciated.

Amy

Amy Harder

energy reporter

The Wall Street Journal

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[@AmyAHarder](#)

**From:** Harder, Amy  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:01 AM  
**To:** 'Reynolds, Thomas'; 'Purchia, Liz'; 'Harrison, Melissa'  
**Subject:** several questions // Gold King Mine

Hi Tom, Liz and Melissa,

Thank you for answering all my questions in the last couple of days. I have a few more questions, not surprisingly. A couple of these I pinged you about yesterday, but I imagine they got lost in the shuffle.

It might be best if you could put us on the phone to talk through some of these questions, though

I realize it's an all hands on deck kind of situation right now for you all, so perhaps tomorrow might be better. In any case, would you be able to get back to us on these as soon as you're able? These are questions from me, Dan Frosch in Colorado and Alexandra Berzon based in L.A. We're the main reporters working on this. I can be reached on my cell phone today at 202.906.9629.

Thanks much.

9. Will President Obama declare emergencies in the affected states to open up federal disaster funding?

10. Regarding the hiatus into similar "field investigation work," approximately how many mines does this affect?

11. Does this hiatus just apply to hardrock mines, or other kinds too?

12. How much has EPA spent on cleaning up abandoned mines since, well, as far back as your data goes?

13. Relatedly, do you have any estimates on costs to plug the rest?

14. How much have you spent approximately on this particular cleanup?

15. We've learned that this particular EPA cleanup project to plug the mines in the Animas watershed, including Gold King & Sunnyside, cost \$1.5 million and began in July. Can you confirm that?

16. The owner of Gold King mine says EPA has not held Sunnyside and Kennross Corp responsible enough for the chronic leakage and this spill. What's your response to that?

Best,

Amy

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